THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The thirteenth Conference of Parties (COP-13) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the third Meeting of Parties (MOP-3) to Kyoto Protocol was held in Bali in December 2007 wherein 190 countries participated. The principal outcome of the Bali conference was to launch a comprehensive process called Bali Action Plan (BAP) that would enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012. It is expected that an agreed outcome would be reached and a decision adopted regarding BAP, at the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP-15) to be held in December 2009. The Conference of Parties serving as Meeting of Parties at Bali also took crucial decisions in respect of the Kyoto Protocol, the *Adhoc* Working Group on further commitments of developed coutnries (beyond 2012) finally established a deadline of 2009 for the completion of its work and forwarding to COP-15 for a decision, its recommendations on quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments of Annex I Parties (developed countries).

(c) India's greenhouse gas emissions were of the order of 1228.5 million tonnes carbon di oxide equivalent in 1994 and amounts to 23.31% of the USA, 30.27% of the China, 37.39% of the EU-15 and 74% of the Russian federation.

(d) A research centre is proposed to be set up, initially, as part of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an autonomous institution under the Ministry to Earth Sciences, for studying the science aspects of climate change.

New Tribal Rights Act

229. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has asked Chief Ministers to adequately protect critical wildlife habitats, while implementing the New Tribal Rights Act that extends legal protection to tribals;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister has advised that while implementing the Act, it should be ensured that adequate protection is provided to critical wildlife habitats as provided for in Section 4 of the Act;

(c) whether Government and the political parties have hoped that the Act would end the historical injustice done to the forest dwellers; and

(d) if so, to what extent this Act has been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The hon'ble Prime Minister has written to all the Chief Ministers requesting the States for ensuring proper implementation of the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (recognition of forest Rights) Act, 2006, expeditiously in keeping with the rules provided under it and to ensure that adequate protection is provided to critical wildlife habitats as provided for in Section 4 of the Act. Further, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has also issued guidelines to the State/ Union Territory Governments for identification of Critical Wildlife Habitats.

(c) and (d) The Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been enacted to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest

dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generation but whose rights could not be recorded and to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. The Rules under the Act have been notified on 1st January 2008.

Tiger reserve

230. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tigers present in our country according to the recent census;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number has decreased compared to its population in the year 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the tiger reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The details are enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below). The total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits are 1165 and 1657 respectively.

(b) The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forest using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assesssment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmark owing to several shortcomings in the letter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(c) The reasons for poor status of tiger population in certain areas are mainly due to the following:

(i) Degradation of forest status outside Protected Areas/Tiger Reserves owing to:

(a) human pressure

(b) livestock pressure

(c) ecologically unsustainable land uses

(ii) Loss of forest quality in terms of prey biomass

(iii) Tiger deaths due to poaching

(iv) Tiger deaths due to man-animal conflict

(v) Fragmentation leading to loss of gene flow from source populations

(vi) Loss of reproduction owing to disturbance on account of heavily used infrastructure like highways, etc.

(vii) Lack of adequate protection in outside areas

(viii) Insurgency/law and order problems

(d) Details of new tiger reserves are given in the enclosed Statement-II